

## Employment Trends

### November Unemployment Rate

Indiana's revised non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 5.0 percent. This is one-tenth of a percentage point below the national rate of 5.1 percent.

3,007,800 million Hoosiers were employed during November.

Indiana's November unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 6.5 percent; Ohio, 6 percent; and Illinois, 5.8 percent. Kentucky was lower than Indiana at 4.2 percent.

### December Unemployment Rate

Indiana's preliminary non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 5.0 percent. This is one-tenth of a percentage point below the national rate of 5.1 percent.

2,992,700 million Hoosiers were employed during December.

Indiana's December unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 6.9 percent; Ohio, 5.6 percent; Illinois, 5.7 percent. Kentucky was lower at 4.2 percent.

### November Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

|                  |     |        |
|------------------|-----|--------|
| Week of 11-06-04 | ... | 54,584 |
| Week of 11-13-04 | ... | 54,516 |
| Week of 11-20-04 | ... | 56,190 |
| Week of 11-27-04 | ... | 54,765 |

### December Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

|                  |       |        |
|------------------|-------|--------|
| Week of 12-04-04 | ...   | 67,286 |
| Week of 12-11-04 | ...   | 64,553 |
| Week of 12-18-04 | ..... | 64,827 |
| Week of 12-25-04 | ...   | 73,322 |

## Staff Change

DWD Commissioner, Ron Stiver, announced an addition to his senior staff.

Sarah Steele was named Director of Governmental Affairs. In her new capacity, Steele will work directly with local governmental units on a variety of workforce issues, as well as maintaining the agency's legislative responsibilities.

Prior to joining DWD, Steele served as Gov. Mitch Daniels' Finance Director.

## Department of Workforce Development

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Mitchell E. Daniels, Governor

Ronald L. Stiver, Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

# Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

## Breaking News

### Ronald Stiver named Commissioner of DWD by Governor Daniels

Gov. Mitch Daniels appointed Ronald Stiver Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. Before being asked to lead DWD, Stiver was a Brand Strategy Manager at Eli Lilly and company and now he looks forward to the opportunity to serve the state.

When asked about his vision for DWD Stiver said, "I think there are three things that we are going to align our organization around. Number one is growing employment, number two is growing personal income. If you put one and two together that means more jobs and better paying jobs for Hoosiers. Number three, and equally important, is customer satisfaction."

Commissioner Stiver envisions DWD working closer with local economic development agencies and local WIBs. He said, "Local offices will be going out to businesses and to economic development agencies and working with them to target clusters and occupations within those clusters. DWD will broker the training providers and the training content so that we are building a skilled workforce that matches the economic development strategy."

### DWD reports to the new Secretary of Commerce

Governor Mitch Daniels signed an executive order his first week on the job creating the Office of Secretary of Commerce and coordination of the state's economic development and job training efforts. Under this order, the Department of Workforce Development along with the Department of Labor will report to the new Secretary of Commerce.

The Secretary of Commerce has been charged with overseeing and coordinating Indiana's efforts to foster business growth, industry modernization, economic diversification, and job creation and retention. Business growth and job creation depend upon the availability of a skilled workforce. With the coordinated efforts of the Department of Workforce Development, the Department of Labor and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Indiana will meet these challenges more easily.

### Disaster relief unemployment benefits available

Following the President's recent disaster declaration, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development will offer Disaster Unemployment Assistance Benefits to Hoosier farmers, some self-employed and other workers whose jobs were affected by weather related events.

Workers in the 62 counties impacted by the severe winter storms and flooding may be eligible to receive this additional help. Those individuals interested in applying for benefits should visit their local WorkOne or WorkOne Express office, or call 1-888-WorkOne for more information before February 26, 2005. Applicants will need a social security number, the address and phone number of their last employer, the dates they worked and a photo ID. Self-employed applicants should also supply information on earnings for the previous federal tax year.

